

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1           1.       A wireless communications unit comprising:  
2           a casing having a front face;  
3           a display;  
4           internal logic contained within the casing, the internal logic to perform a pickup  
5           pause function; and  
6           a keypad having a button configured to signal the internal logic to initiate the  
7           pickup pause function to (i) automatically answer an incoming call and (ii) playback a  
8           message that indicates an intended recipient is temporarily unavailable to answer the  
9           incoming call prior to or concurrent with producing an event to notify the recipient of the  
10          incoming call.
- 1           2.       The wireless communication unit of claim 1, wherein the keypad further  
2           includes a button that, when depressed, causes the internal logic to suspend playback of the  
3           message and establish an audio channel adapted for transmission of audio from the unit.
- 1           3.       The wireless communication unit of claim 1, wherein the event is a warning  
2           perceivable only by the recipient.
- 1           4.       The wireless communication unit of claim 3, wherein the event is an  
2           activation of a vibration device contained within the casing.
- 1           5.       The wireless communication unit of claim 1, wherein the internal logic  
2           further initiates the pickup pause function for generating an alphanumeric message for  
3           output to a caller.
- 1           6.       The wireless communication unit of claim 1, wherein the playback of the  
2           message indicates an estimated amount of time delay needed before the recipient can  
3           accept the incoming call, the amount of time delay is programmed by the user through  
4           depression of buttons on the keypad.

1           7.       The wireless communication unit of claim 1, wherein the internal logic  
2 includes a processing unit coupled to a memory and a transceiver.

1           8.       A method comprising:  
2           enabling a pickup pause functionality performed by internal logic within a wireless  
3 communication unit, the pickup pause functionality includes answering an incoming call  
4 by a caller with a recorded message audible only to the caller to indicate that a recipient is  
5 temporarily unavailable and generating a silent warning perceivable by the recipient  
6 concurrently with or after playback of the recorded message; and  
7           completing an audio channel to the wireless communication unit to allow the  
8 recipient to talk with the caller and suspending playback of the recorded message once the  
9 recipient is available to answer the incoming call.

1           9.       The method of claim 8, wherein enabling of the pickup pause functionality  
2 further includes setting the wireless communication unit to answer the incoming call with  
3 the recorded message automatically without any activity by the recipient.

1           10.      The method of claim 8, wherein the enabling of the pickup pause  
2 functionality further includes programming an estimated amount of time for inclusion into  
3 the recorded message, the estimated amount of time being represented in accordance with a  
4 selected time interval.

1           11.      The method of claim 10, wherein the selected time interval is a selected  
2 number of seconds.

1           12.      The method of claim 10, wherein generating the silent warning includes  
2 activating a device of the wireless communication unit to cause the wireless  
3 communication unit to vibrate.

09664-0360-0000

1           13.     The method of claim 8, wherein the enabling of the pickup pause  
2     functionality further includes programming the wireless communication unit to answer the  
3     incoming call with the recorded message that indicates an estimated amount of time delay  
4     before the incoming call can be accepted by completing the audio channel, and at the end  
5     of the estimated amount of time delay, automatically disengaging the pickup pause  
6     functionality to complete the audio channel.

1           14.     A method comprising:  
2             enabling a pickup pause functionality at a service provider, the pickup pause  
3     functionality includes answering an incoming call by a caller with a recorded message  
4     audible only to the caller to indicate that a recipient is temporarily unavailable to answer  
5     the incoming call and sending a signal to a wireless communication unit of the recipient to  
6     generate a silent signal to warn the recipient of the incoming call; and  
7             completing an audio channel to the wireless communication unit and suspending  
8     playback of the recorded message once the recipient is available to answer the incoming  
9     call.

1           15.     A method comprising:  
2             enabling a pickup pause functionality performed by internal logic within a wireless  
3     communication unit, the pickup pause functionality includes generating a warning  
4     perceivable only by a holder of the wireless communication unit upon receipt of an  
5     incoming call;  
6             activating a recorded message by the holder for indicating to the caller that the  
7     holder is temporarily unavailable to answer the incoming call; and  
8             suspending playback of the recorded message and completing an audio channel to  
9     the wireless communication unit to allow the caller to talk with the holder once the holder  
10    is available to answer the incoming call.

1           16.     The method of claim 15, wherein the activating of the recorded message  
2     includes depressing a dedicated button on the wireless communication device.

1           17.     The method of claim 15, wherein prior to suspending playback of the  
2 recorded message, the method further comprises depressing buttons of a keypad of the  
3 wireless communication unit by the holder to program a duration of time delay, which is  
4 indicated through a message only audible to the caller, that is needed for the holder to  
5 answer the incoming call.

1           18.     A software embodied in internal memory of a wireless communication unit  
2 and executable by a processing unit, comprising:  
3           a first software module to enable a pickup pause function including answering an  
4 incoming call with a message audible to indicate that a recipient is temporarily unavailable  
5 to answer the incoming call; and  
6           a second software module to activate a device within the wireless communication  
7 unit for warning the recipient of the incoming call.

1           19.     The software of claim 18 further comprising a third software module to  
2 establish an audio channel between the wireless communication unit and a unit  
3 transmitting the incoming call.

1           20.     The software of claim 18 further comprising a third software module to  
2 suspend iterative playback of the message once the recipient is available to answer the  
3 incoming call.

1           21.     The software of claim 18, wherein the first and second software modules  
2 are loaded in the internal memory of a cellular phone operating as the wireless  
3 communication unit.